

BEATRICE

FIRE & RESCUE



Annual Report

2003

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Mission Statement

The Beatrice Fire Department's mission is to provide the highest level of emergency and non-emergency public safety services through the extension of fire prevention, fire control, rescue, emergency medical services and public fire education, and to protect life and property in an efficient and cost effective manner for the Community of Beatrice.



DEPARTMENT GOALS

To:

Prevent the loss of life and injury; from fire-related hazards, accidents, and natural disasters.

To:

Prevent loss of property from fire and fire related activities.

To:

Provide injury prevention education aimed at managing risk areas in our community...create safer homes, promote positive health choices and address traffic injuries, falls, firearm injuries, poisoning, and burns.

To:

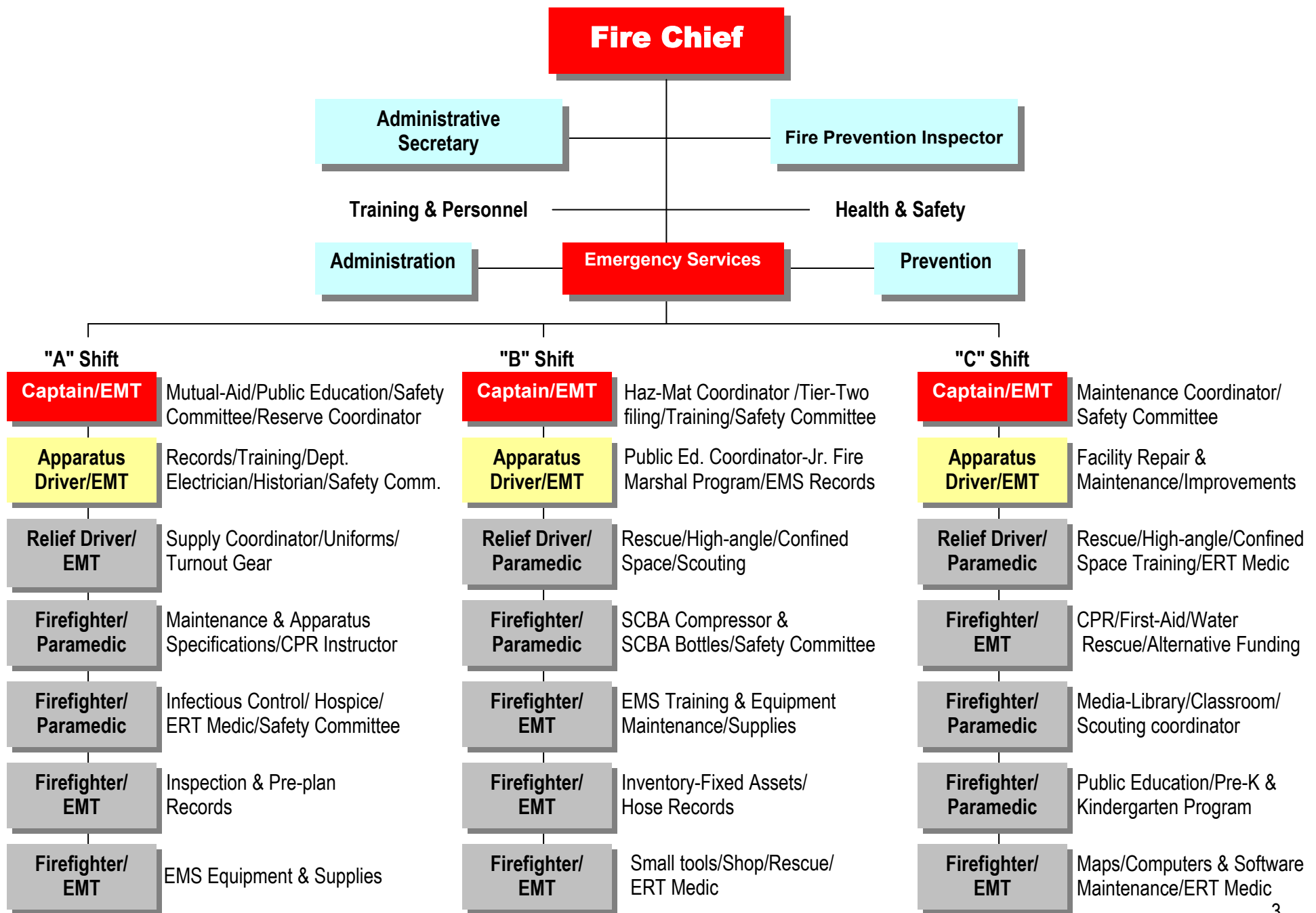
Prevent the loss of life and reduce injury through prompt professional delivery of emergency rescue and medical services.

To:

Increase public safety awareness among citizens through the delivery of public fire and safety education programs and public service announcements through the media.

To:

Continue to emphasize youth-directed public fire education programs in and out of our schools.





Chief Terry Burger



"A" Shift



Inspector John Carrel



"B" Shift



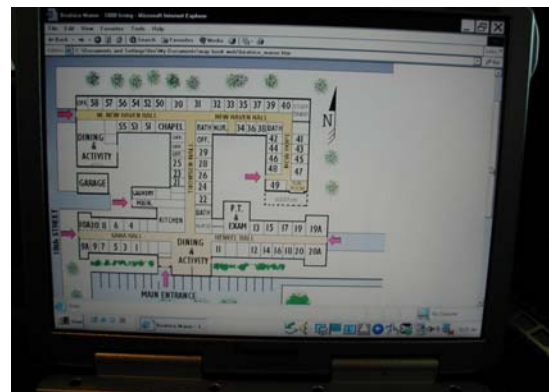
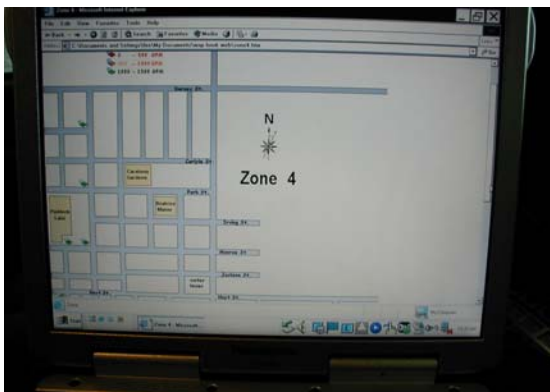
Secretary Shirley Parde



"C" Shift

New and Updated Equipment

With the assistance of **MFO (Mutual Finance Organization)** grant money, the Department was able to purchase two “Mobile Data Terminals” for our first response fire engine and our first response ambulance. These computer terminals will allow our responding personnel to have critical dispatch information (about the call they are responding to) accessible to them while enroute to the call. This information will include the exact location of the call, the nature of the call and any pertinent information that the dispatch center has regarding the call. The ability to communicate directly with the dispatch center (by way of the computer terminal) without using the radio will greatly enhance the quantity and the quality of information available to our personnel as they are responding to an emergency. The information that is received on the computer terminal is also more secure and private than information shared over the radio. The computer terminals will also be used by our personnel to enter fire and EMS reports while they are in the field. This will benefit our EMS personnel by allowing them to start their patient report while returning from an out-of-town transfer, saving them valuable time. Another benefit of the computer terminal is the ability to access street maps, which assists responding personnel to find the exact location of the call. The computers also have information about many of the major buildings in our response area, such as floor plans and the location of sprinkler hook-ups, fire alarm panels and fire hydrants. This information will be invaluable to the safety and efficiency of our personnel, while offering an even higher level of service to our citizens. Below, are pictures of the computers at work and screen shots of a street map and floor plan:



New Equipment (cont.)

MFO (Mutual Finance Organization) funds were used during 2003 to purchase a new service vehicle, a 2003 Ford Expedition, for the fire department. This vehicle is utilized as the Fire Chief's command vehicle, is used to transport personnel and equipment during an incident or during inclement winter weather, and as transportation of personnel to out-of-town training sessions.

MFO funds were also used to replace the Department's over-head paging system in the fire station. The old system was installed when the fire department originally moved to the lower level of the City Auditorium building in 1965. This sound system allows fire department personnel to hear dispatches from the communication center by way of speakers located throughout the station and outside of the building.

An LCD projector was also purchased with MFO funds during 2003. This projector is used for training purposes in the fire department classroom, and can be used for public education presentations outside of the fire station.

The total amount of MFO funds made available during 2003 was \$95,000.



LCD Projector



Over-head paging system

Grants

During the calendar year of 2003, we received the remaining \$60,000 portion of a \$170,000 “Department of Justice-Homeland Security and Office of Domestic Preparedness” grant that was awarded to our Department in the calendar year of 2002. The total grant of \$170,000 was used to provide our Department with more adequate Haz-Mat response equipment. During 2003 we were able to purchase more chemical protective suits, chemical detection devices and specialized decontamination equipment (see photos below).



Grants (cont.)

Another grant was applied for during 2003, (and was granted Jan. 16, 2004). This was a **FEMA** (Federal Emergency Management Agency) “*Assistance to Firefighters*” grant, which assists fire departments throughout the United States to increase the effectiveness of fire operations, firefighter health & safety, new fire apparatus, emergency medical service programs, and fire prevention & safety programs. The grant applied for by our Department was in the “*Fire Operations & Firefighter Safety*” category. With the \$104,675 made available by this grant, we will be purchasing new **SCBA** (Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus) to replace outdated units that are now in service, which do not comply with current safety standards. We will also be able to replace our aging air compressor and cascade system, used to refill our self-contained air bottles (see photos below).



During 2003, Gage County Emergency Management (Mark Meints, Director) was granted funds through a “*Department of Justice-Homeland Security and Office of Domestic Preparedness*” grant, which was distributed to area fire departments. Items purchased by our Department that were funded by this grant were a portable repeater for our radio system, which also acts as a back-up repeater, and a portable radio battery optimizer, which analyzes and conditions our radio batteries, which prolongs the life of the batteries. The amount of our portion of this grant was \$8000.

With funds distributed to our Department from a FEMA “*Assistance to Firefighters*” grant awarded to Gage County Emergency Management, we purchased seven new **PASS** (Personal Alert Safety System) devices, which sound an alarm if a firefighter does not move for a period of time. With funds made available to our Department from another FEMA “*Assistance to Firefighters*” grant, awarded to Filley NE Rural Fire Department at the end of the calendar year, we will be purchasing new pagers (approx. 15) for some of our personnel. The value of our portion of these two grants total approx. \$6500.

Public Education

Fire Department personnel are trained and continue to train in their firefighting skills, so they can safely and effectively extinguish fires as they happen. They also spend a lot of time and energy on educating the public, especially our children, on ways of preventing fires and what to do if they do experience a fire.

It is difficult to track your success in this endeavour, because nobody hears or knows about the fire that “**DIDN'T**” happen, they only hear about the ones that “**DID**”. You don't hear about the child that was saved because of something they learned about fire safety or fire prevention in school or at the Fire Station, you only hear about the ones that were not saved. We feel confident that over the many years that we have been involved in educating the public on fire prevention and fire safety practices, that we have made a positive impact. Below, are examples of some of the fire prevention and safety programs that we offer and how many citizens have participated in them during the past year.



EVENT	NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS
Fire Station tours	286
Fire Extinguisher classes	105
Fire, Rescue & EMS demonstrations/displays and fire safety instruction	1309
First-Aid / CPR Classes	33
Boy Scouts/Cub Scouts (fire safety & first-aid)	60
Fire Prevention Week “ Puppet Shows ”	212
“ JUNIOR FIRE MARSHAL ” Program (5 th grade)	186

The Fire Department offers free home fire safety inspections and in cooperation with local Service Clubs, we offer the free use of chimney cleaning equipment to all citizens and free Smoke Detectors for eligible citizens. In partnership with the Board of Public Works, we also offer the “Emergency Light Beacon” program, which provides a free pulsating emergency light for eligible citizens.

Training

A significant portion of Fire Department personnel's time, on-duty and off-duty, is spent in preparation for emergency responses. For the safety of the citizens they serve and for their own safety, it is imperative that Department members maintain their proficiency in handling emergency operations. We also are required to comply with mandated Federal and State requirements regarding employee training and continuing education. We average over 200 hours of training per employee per year. This equates to approximately 5,000 hours of department training annually. Members also devote many hours per month for physical fitness training to help keep them physically fit to perform the rigorous activities of fire fighting and handling other emergency situations.

EXAMPLES OF DEPARTMENT TRAINING

- Computer training
- Confined-space rescue
- CPR certification
- Disaster preparedness
- Emergency driving
- Emergency response to terrorism/WMD
- EMT certification
- Fire apparatus familiarization
- Fire cause & origin/arson investigation
- Fire/EMS equipment training
- Hazardous materials
- Incident-command/Scene management
- Infectious control/communicable disease
- Interior attack/live fires
- Paramedic certification
- Pediatric emergencies
- Positive pressure ventilation
- Records management
- Rescue and extrication training

Training Activities



High-angle rope rescue training



Haz-Mat training



Confined-space training



Confined-space rescue training



Pump operations training



Fire cause/origin investigation training

Hazardous Materials

The Beatrice Fire and Rescue continues to provide Hazardous Material response at the Technician level to our community. This level of response allows us to take offensive actions by entering the chemically contaminated area to mitigate the hazard. Taking these actions will reduce the potential damage and health risk these chemicals can pose to human life, property, and the environment.

Hazardous Materials responses require specialized training and equipment to effectively and safely control the incident. This requires continuing training for all department personnel that is conducted in-house and at various courses provided outside the department throughout the year.

Captain Brian Daake attended a train-the-trainer course for technician level hazmat response. Six Fire Department members attended a "Chemical Protective Clothing Team" course in Hastings, NE, put on by two members of the New York City Fire Department's Hazardous Materials team. The majority of the department members attended a course on EMS Operations and Planning for Weapons of Mass Destruction through the Office of Domestic Preparedness hosted by the Office of Gage County Emergency Management. Firefighter Nate Koch and Reserve Firefighter James Griffith attended the Technician course in Grand Island this year as well. This provides us with a total of 25 Technicians at this time.

We continued to receive "Homeland Security" grant money to purchase and maintain our hazardous materials equipment. This last year due to the grant we have purchased several different items. These include chemical protective suits, chemical detection equipment, and specialized decontamination equipment.

Beatrice Fire and Rescue also has the honor of being a regional response team for the State of Nebraska. Our regional response area includes our Mutual Aid Association, which has 26 fire department and ambulance districts in four counties, but by the Governor's declaration, we can be dispatched anywhere.

On September 20, 2003 we participated with the Mutual Aid Association in a Disaster Drill at Tri-County School. The training exercise scenario was a mass-casualty incident, which was caused by a chlorine leak in the school. It required the activation of our hazardous materials team to control the hazard and perform decontamination for the exposed students and responders. This was an excellent learning opportunity for our agency and it also allowed the members of our Mutual Aid Association to see us in operation.

Future plans for the Hazardous Materials program include maintaining and expanding our current level of training. Through Homeland Security Grants we will continue to be able to purchase the necessary equipment to protect our responders and our citizens in case of a hazardous materials release or weapons of mass destruction incident.

Mutual-Aid Hazmat Drill

(Sept. 20, 2003)



Apparatus & Building Maintenance

Fire Department personnel spend hundreds of hours each year on vehicle and equipment maintenance and repair. The majority of this time is spent on preventative maintenance for the Department's apparatus and all of the fire, rescue and EMS equipment that is carried on each piece of apparatus. It is imperative that our equipment be ready for the next emergency and that it remains functional. Our personnel also perform most of the maintenance to our facility.

The ladders and pump on our Ladder Truck was tested and recertified during 2003, as well as all of our ground ladders.



Fire Prevention Division

Inspections & Plans Reviews

OCCUPANCY TYPE	INSPECTIONS	PLANS REVIEWS	HOURS
Places of Assembly	36	0	0
Business	17	6	9
Care Homes	14	0	0
Day Care Facilities	32	0	0
Education	11	0	0
Health Care	0	0	0
Industrial	25	13	42
Mercantile	5	1	1
Residential (Family)	1	0	0
Residential (Commercial)	7	1	2
Storage Facilities	4	2	2
Other	47	3	2.5
TOTAL	212	26	58.5

\$1589 collected for plan reviews and State license inspections

Summary of Other Activities

ACTIVITY	SESSIONS	HOURS
Misc. Administrative Duties	-----	937
Meetings	118	126
Calls for Service/Citizen Complaints	6	5
Juvenile Firesetter Counseling Sessions	3	4
Public Education	4	6.5
Training	20	80.5
Fire Suppression	3	9
Fire & Fire Alarm Investigations	11	15.5
Hazmat Response	1	3.5
Ambulance Assist	4	3
Fill-in on Shift	21	27.5
Computer Technical Assistance	163	427

Comparison Summary of Activity

1999-2003

Fire/Explosion

Type of Situation Found	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Commercial Fire	10	4	19	7	6
Residential Fire	17	18	8	20	25
Fire Outside Structure	8	3	2	5	1
Vehicle Fire	13	27	24	17	13
Tree, Brush, Grass Fire	34	41	28	9	7
Refuse Fire	11	10	10	12	3
Explosion, No Fire	0	0	0	0	0
Outside Spill w/Fire	1	0	0	0	1
Fire/Explosion, Unclassified	2	1	4	5	12
TOTAL	96	104	95	75	68

Fire Response/Emergency Medical

Rescue Call	24	29	81	31	18
Emergency Medical Call	152	86	134	228	192
Lock-In	0	0	0	0	0
Extrication	12	11	17	25	13
Rescue Call, Unclassified	94	110	2	7	16
TOTAL	282	236	234	291	239

Hazardous Condition

Over-pressure/Rupture	1	0	3	2	1
Gas Rupture	0	0	0	5	2
Hazardous Condition	0	3	1	2	5
Spill/Leak, No Fire	18	18	18	10	13
Explosive/Bomb Removal	0	0	0	0	0
Excessive Heat	1	0	0	0	0
Power Line Down	2	2	2	3	0
Arcing/Electrical Short	1	2	3	5	0
Chemical Emergency	0	0	0	0	0
Hazardous Condition, Unclass.	0	0	2	2	8
TOTAL	23	25	29	29	29

Public Service Assist

Type of Situation Found	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Lock-Out	0	0	0	0	0
Service Call	16	14	41	31	9
Smoke/Odor Removal	0	1	11	9	8
Assist Law Enforcement	1	6	6	1	2
Unauthorized Burning	1	0	0	0	1
Cover Assignment	10	6	3	0	1
Service Call, Unclassified	7	8	4	11	23
Good Intent Call	19	21	48	21	12
Smoke Scare	35	30	29	8	5
Animal Rescue	0	1	0	0	0
Controlled Burning	4	3	1	1	0
Vicinity Alarm	0	2	5	0	0
Mistaken For Smoke	3	3	3	3	5
TOTAL	96	95	151	85	66

False Calls

False Call	32	39	53	71	38
Malicious/Mischievous Call	1	5	1	2	6
Bomb Scare, No Bomb	0	1	0	0	0
System Malfunction	17	23	27	6	16
Unintentional Call	40	27	49	8	51
TOTAL	90	95	130	87	111

Unclassified Calls

Undetermined/Unclassified	6	7	10	1	0
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Mutual-Aid

Mutual-Aid Calls	79	66	41
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GRAND TOTALS	593	562	728	634	554
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Fire Response Summary 1999-2003



STATISTIC	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total Fires	96	104	95	75	68
Total Fire Loss	\$262,210	\$530,082	\$64,005	\$150,350	\$421,535
Before Fire Property Value	\$7,208,576	\$4,273,751	\$2,440,060	\$450,450	\$2,248,815
Property Value Saved	\$6,946,366	\$3,743,669	\$2,376,055	\$300,100	\$1,827,280
Total Percent Saved	96.36%	87.60%	97.38%	66.66%	81.26%
Number of Fire Deaths	0	0	0	0	0
Firefighter Injuries	3	1	1	1	1
Civilian Injuries	3	3	0	1	5
Busiest Month	Dec.	March	April	January	March
Busiest Day	Friday	Wed.	Wed.	Thurs.	Wed.
Busiest Time	5-5:59 PM	3-3:59 PM	4-4:59 PM	1-1:59 PM	2-2:59 PM
Avg. Response Time	3.64 min.	3.42 min	3.41 min.	3.38 min.	3.27 min.
Mutual-Aid Calls	55	61	79	66	41

Mutual-Aid Responses

Type of Mutual-Aid Call	Number of Calls
Assist Police/Sheriff	0
Controlled Burn	1
Emergency Medical	4
Extrication	2
False Call	1
Fire/Explosion, Not Classified	1
Fire-Outside Structure	0
Good Intent Call	1
HazMat Response	2
Refuse Fire	1
Rescue Call, Unclassified	0
Service Call	0
Smoke Scare	0
Structure Fire	2
Trees, Brush, Grass Fire	20
Type of Situation/Not Classified or Determined	1
Vehicle Fire	5
Total Mutual-Aid Calls	41



Ambulance Service

1999-2003



TYPE OF CALL	NUMBER OF EMS RESPONSES				
	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Medical	466	401	549	241	361
Trauma/Non Vehicular	179	166	80	328	135
Trauma/Vehicular	53	61	66	69	109
Cardiac/Chest Pain	83	46	54	224	74
In-town Transfers	195	151	117	63	189
Out-of-town Transfers	374	396	414	416	551
No-Transport-Vehicular	93	48	41	64	73
No-Transport-Medical/Trauma	129	108	141	113	117
Standby	32	35	26	28	23
Mutual-Aid/ALS			8	28	55
Other		6	5	16	0
TOTAL EMS RESPONSES	1604	1418	1501	1590	1687
EMERGENCY RESPONSES	590	670	727	825	915
NON-EMERGENCY RESPONSES	1015	748	750	723	745
MISC/OTHER RESPONSES			24	42	27

Most Common Age of Patient 80-89 Years of Age

Busiest Time of Day 2:00 – 2:59 PM

Most Common Reasons for Calls
1. Trauma
2. Chest Pain
3. Respiratory Distress
4. Seizure

Ambulance Financial Report			
January 1, 2003 – December 31, 2003			
	2001	2002	2003
Total Billed	\$328,212	\$474,174	\$527,292
Total Collected	\$239,063	\$331,368	\$389,586
Percentage Collected (annualized)	72.80%	69.88%	73.88%